

September 14, 2004

## **Howard asks lawmakers to boost support for schools**

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Marilyn Howard will ask lawmakers to increase state funding for public schools to accommodate growth, support struggling students, improve pay for employees, and create new opportunities for high school students.

In addition, Howard will ask the state to pick up its share of state-required mandates for schools in technology and new teachers support.

“This budget request represents what it costs to meet requirements imposed by state law and to improve programs and services to students,” Howard said. “The reality is that school resources have been stretched to the limit during the past four years, and all that time the expectations of schools, from both the state and national levels, have been growing.”

Howard's request for Fiscal Year 2006, submitted to the state's budget office, totals \$1.09 billion, an increase of \$80 million in state support over the current year. Of that, about \$20 million is “stay even” funding to accommodate a growth in student enrollment and in the number of schools and to pay for an increase in employer contributions to the state's retirement program.

Beyond that, Howard said, she and members of the Public School Coalition – an advisory group representing district trustees, school administrators, classroom teachers, and parents – looked at areas where funds are needed to shore up or improve school services or to meet legislatively approved programs.

Areas where additional funding is needed in the public schools budget include:

**Salaries for school employees.** Of the \$33 million in new salary funds requested, \$9.3 million simply pays increased costs related to growth in enrollment and in charter schools. \$20.7 million would provide a 3-percent increase in funds available for salaries of teachers, administrators, and classified staff. \$3.9 million would provide full funding of the education and experience portion of the state's salary reimbursement formula.

**District-level classroom support.** Over the past four years, state support has remained fairly flat for general district operating funds such as utilities, textbooks, employee health insurance coverage, and other yearly expenses. Howard said the \$6.2 million requested would keep districts from slipping further behind.

**Idaho Student Information Management System (ISIMS).** Two years ago, the Idaho Legislature, the Office of the Governor, the State Department of Education, and the State Board of Education accepted \$35 million from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation to begin development of a statewide data system for student information. The signed agreement provided that the state would take over annual operating costs beginning in 2006. The request is for \$5 million.

**Technology support for school districts.** Currently, districts use state-provided technology funding to buy and maintain computers and software, as well as to pay technology staff. Both ISIMS and the new statewide testing programs administered by the State Board of Education require districts to increase their computer capacity and their broadband Internet connections. The request is for an additional \$4 million.

**College readiness initiative.** Historically, only about 44 percent of Idaho's high school graduates go on to college immediately after high school, although 80 percent of the Class of 2006 has already passed the state's high school graduation test. The \$800,000 in this request will be used for two purposes: paying costs of one college entrance exam – the ACT, SAT, or Compass – for any high school junior and training high school teachers to offer more Advanced Placement coursework.

“We need to encourage more of our high school students to go on for more education, in college or in one of our high-tech professional-technical programs, if we want them to qualify for good paying jobs,” Howard said. “This is a good investment in Idaho's future, too, since a highly qualified workforce attracts new business and industry to our state.”

**Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) equity funding and additional special education support.** Under the federal “No Child Left Behind Act,” schools are rated each year as to whether all students make AYP. Some of Idaho's schools receive federal funding to help academically struggling students; the \$5.1 million requested for AYP funding would cover those state-required tutorial or extra academic services in schools that do not receive those federal dollars. Another \$1 million is requested to restore state funding, eliminated a year ago, to a program designed to pay teacher training and classroom aide costs for Idaho's special education students, most of whom spend their time in “regular” classrooms.

**Mentor program for new teachers.** In 2000, the Idaho Legislature rewrote teacher contract laws and required districts to provide mentor programs for beginning teachers. The \$2 million for the program was eliminated in 2003-04; this request would restore that funding.

“As long as it’s state law, the state ought to be paying the cost,” Howard said. “Districts still have to pay for this, even without any support, and the more we thin the soup, the less money is available where it really matters: in the classroom.”

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**(Editors and reporters: Included with this release is a one-page summary of the budget request as a PDF file.)**

Public School Support Program  
Distribution Factor

	2004-2005	2005-2006	Increase / (Decrease)	% Change
1 APPROPRIATIONS				
a. General Account	\$889,706,500	\$972,049,300	\$82,342,800	9.3%
b. Property Tax Replacement	75,000,000	75,000,000	0	0.0%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$964,706,500	\$1,047,049,300	\$82,342,800	8.5%
c. Dedicated Accounts	\$38,207,800	\$35,919,700	(\$2,288,100)	-6.0%
d. Cigarette and Lottery Taxes	4,700,000	4,700,000	0	0.0%
TOTAL DEDICATED REVENUES	\$42,907,800	\$40,619,700	(\$2,288,100)	-5.3%
TOTAL STATE REVENUES	\$1,007,614,300	\$1,087,669,000	\$80,054,700	7.9%
e. Federal Funds	\$157,980,000	\$165,000,000	\$7,020,000	4.4%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,165,594,300	\$1,252,669,000	\$87,074,700	7.5%
2 PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION				
a. Property Tax Replacement	\$75,000,000	\$75,000,000	\$0	0.0%
b. Transportation	57,600,000	59,947,700	2,347,700	4.1%
c. Border Contracts	800,000	800,000	0	0.0%
d. Exceptional Contracts and Tuition Equivalents	5,000,000	5,750,000	750,000	15.0%
e. Floor	1,300,000	1,300,000	0	0.0%
f. Program Adjustments	300,000	400,000	100,000	33.3%
g. Salary-based Apportionment	684,339,900	718,207,700	33,867,800	4.9%
h. Teacher Incentive Award (Natl Bd Cert)	696,400	696,400	0	0.0%
i. State Paid Employee Benefits	123,454,900	133,945,700	10,490,800	8.5%
j. Unemployment	1,250,000	1,250,000	0	0.0%
k. Early Retirement Payout	4,000,000	4,600,000	600,000	15.0%
l. Substance Abuse	4,700,000	4,700,000	0	0.0%
m. Bond Levy Equalization Support Program	2,000,000	5,000,000	3,000,000	150.0%
Building Student Success:				
n. Technology Grants	8,400,000	12,400,000	4,000,000	47.6%
o. ISIMS	0	5,000,000	5,000,000	NA
p. Idaho Reading Initiative	2,800,000	2,800,000	0	0.0%
q. Limited English Proficient (LEP)	4,850,000	5,060,000	210,000	4.3%
r. State AYP Remediation	0	5,100,000	5,100,000	NA
s. Idaho Digital Learning Academy	450,000	900,000	450,000	100.0%
t. Special Initiative	0	800,000	800,000	NA
Professional Development:				
u. Least Restrictive Environment (Teacher Training)	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	NA
v. Gifted and Talented (Teacher Training)	500,000	500,000	0	0.0%
w. Annual Contract Support Program (Mentor)	0	2,000,000	2,000,000	NA
x. Federal Funds for Local School Districts	157,980,000	165,000,000	7,020,000	4.4%
y. School Facilities Funding	8,922,500	13,450,000	4,527,500	50.7%
z. HB 315 Facilities Transfer (Whitepine)	377,500	0	(377,500)	-100.0%
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS	\$1,144,721,200	\$1,225,607,500	\$80,886,300	7.1%
Education Stabilization Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
3 NET STATE FUNDING AVAILABLE	\$20,873,100	\$27,061,500	\$6,188,400	29.6%
4 SUPPORT UNITS	12,870.0	13,050.0	180.0	1.4%
5 NET STATE FUNDING PER SUPPORT UNIT (includes \$300 for Safe Environment Provisions)	\$1,621.84	\$2,073.68	\$451.84	27.9%
6 EQUALIZATION				
Adjusted Market Value	\$76,600,000,000	\$81,500,000,000	\$4,900,000,000	6.4%
Urban renewal	1,550,000,000	1,550,000,000	0	0.0%
Rural Electric Association (REA)	135,000,000	135,000,000	0	0.0%
Mines Net Profit Decrease	0	0	0	NA
Total Market Value	\$78,285,000,000	\$83,185,000,000	\$4,900,000,000	6.3%
Equalization Rate X	0.00398	0.00392		
Total Equalization	\$311,504,804	\$326,240,000	\$14,735,196	4.7%
District Taxes not Equalized	(17,700,000)	(24,650,000)	(6,950,000)	39.3%
7 NET EQUALIZATION	\$293,804,804	\$301,590,000	\$7,785,196	2.6%
8 NET EQUALIZATION PER SUPPORT UNIT	\$22,828.66	\$23,110.34	\$281.68	1.2%
9 DISTRIBUTION FACTOR	\$24,450.50	\$25,184.02	\$733.52	3.0%